



NATIONAL
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STATISTICS
SERVICE



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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: August 24, 2014

Number: 24

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 24, 2014

Virginia experienced scattered rain showers and seasonable temperatures this week. Most areas received one half of an inch to 3 inches of rain. The rain was timely for the crops, but slowed fieldwork and made drying cut hay difficult. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.0. Farmers spent the week scouting crops for insect pressure and applying insecticides. The majority of soybeans and corn was in good condition. Corn harvested for silage was underway, but was behind schedule due to the rain. Corn harvested for grain was expected to begin in earnest in about 10 days; the corn needed more time to dry out before harvesting. Other farming activities included harvesting fruit and vegetables, selling local produce at Farmer Markets, and making seed purchases for small grains and cover crops.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 24, 2014	2	22	66	10
August 17, 2014	3	24	67	6
August 10, 2014	5	24	64	7
August 3, 2014	6	24	65	5

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 24, 2014	3	24	70	3
August 17, 2014	4	26	68	2
August 10, 2014	5	26	67	2
August 3, 2014	4	29	66	1

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**

Virginia Tech

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	8	20	57	15
Soybeans	0	3	20	64	13
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	3	4	32	34	27
Tobacco, Fire-Cured	1	3	26	63	7
Tobacco, Burley	1	1	28	62	8
Cotton	0	0	1	96	3
Peanuts	0	0	2	88	10
Livestock	1	4	21	58	16
Pasture and Range	2	12	34	45	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	6	31	51	12
Hay, Other	2	13	38	42	5
Apples, All	0	1	38	54	7
Grapes, All	0	13	34	42	11

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Setting Bolls	97	95	100	97
Cotton Bolls Opening	6	2	9	12
Corn Dough	85	80	84	88
Corn Dented	59	50	58	66
Corn Mature	18	7	16	33
Corn for Grain Harvested	0	n/a	2	4
Corn for Silage Harvested	25	12	27	51
Soybeans Blooming	80	71	86	90
Soybeans Setting Pods	52	42	61	63
Flue-Cured Tobacco Harvested	26	21	38	33
Fire-Cured Tobacco Cut	18	3	36	41
Burley Tobacco Stripped	2	n/a	9	7
Potatoes Summer Harvested	99	99	100	100
All Apples Harvested	31	29	n/a	n/a
Peaches Harvested	77	67	85	79

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING August 24, 2014

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To Aug 23	Mar. 1 to Aug23 Norm	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	82	68	85	64	75	1	2912	2813	0.83	12.47	1.72	33.49	4.62
Norfolk	85	73	88	72	79	2	3287	3095	0.61	12.78	0.26	32.41	1.25
Richmond	87	70	92	67	78	2	3316	3049	0.80	9.63	-1.69	25.67	-3.50
Roanoke	83	67	88	63	75	0	2935	n/a	2.47	12.89	2.50	28.48	0.00
Wash/Dulles	82	65	87	62	74	0	2685	n/a	3.30	11.41	1.14	35.75	8.67

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We have had scattered showers. High humidity and temperatures were in the mid 80's. Crops are looking good at this time.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

Getting lots of rain, too wet to do anything all week. Everything is growing but rain is making late hay difficult to get dry.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Thunder storms Tuesday evening and Saturday afternoon brought at least an inch of rain to the Rockbridge region this week. It improved conditions for hay crops and is helping row crops. Moderate temperatures have been favorable for crop development.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

One good recent rain last Friday night brought back a lot of moisture to the topsoil and thus helped the beans and the forages.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables offered by local producers. Rain showers fell daily this last week in late afternoon. Hop harvest completed and is being prepared for brewing. Japanese beetles are moderate this year, soybean fields are being scouted for disease, kudzu bugs.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall was scattered once again during the week. Farmers continued scouting and treating soybeans for disease and insects. Frogeye leaf spot has been prevalent on susceptible varieties. Other activities included attending field days and preparing for corn harvest. A few producers started harvesting corn.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Corn beginning to dry down. Don't expect much harvested for another 10 days to two weeks. Moisture is still high. Yields should be very respectable in the area. Soybeans are loving life right now. Cooler than normal days and intermittent showers help a lot. Lots of scouting going on. Looking for corn earworm, stink bugs, kudzu bugs and now for aphids. Lot of folks just going ahead and making the R-3 growth stage application of fungicide and insecticide. Folks are making plans for small grain planting. Price is not the best, but producers will take some chance that there will be marketing opportunities ahead.

Suspect less wheat for 2014-15 than last year. Some haymaking going on, but showers and cloudy weather are not helping. Squash, cantaloupes, watermelons, tomatoes, and peppers are the "picks" of the week. Sweet potatoes not far off!

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Recent rains have improved crop and pasture conditions.

SOUTHERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Rain showers have slowed farming some, with hay on the ground, but too wet to bale. Second cutting hay is good, with it making up for most of the shortfall due to the early freeze damage.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Rains during the night hours have been spotty in the County. Harvests are progressing of Flue-cured Tobacco and vegetables. Several producers are continuing with area farmers markets. Crops overall look pretty good. Heat and humidity during daylight hours this week was a bit stressful on crops and livestock.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)

Silage harvest well underway. Farmers are scouting for corn earworm, but not at thresholds yet. Making some soybean fungicide sprays for podding soybeans. Farmers are looking at wheat seed orders for the fall. Seed expected to be plentiful and good quality. Moderate temperatures and adequate soil moisture continue.

SOUTHEASTERN, continued

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Rain showers covered most of the county this week with 0.5 to over 2 inches. It was a much needed shot of moisture. The most popular activity for the week has been scouting soybeans for insects. A few fields have been treated for a complex of insects with no single insect at economic threshold.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Scattered showers provided us with much needed rains this week and crops are looking very good. Growers continue to scout peanut, cotton and soybean for insect pests. Some growers have treated portions of the crop for corn-earworm in soybean.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Spotty rains have strawberry growers needing soil moisture for plasticulture bed formation. With no measurable rain in site, overhead irrigation will most likely be utilized this week to maintain scheduled progress.